

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-13, and 15-17 are pending in the present application, with claims 2, 11, 15 and 17 having been amended, claims 4, 5, 14 and 19-21 canceled previously without prejudice, and claim 18 hereby canceled without prejudice.

The Action **(1)** rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; **(2)** rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 00/08706 ("the '706 reference") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0239491 A1 ("the '491 reference"); **(3)** rejected claims 2, 7, 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,434,365 ("the '365 reference"); **(4)** rejected claims 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '706 reference in view of the '365 reference and further in view of European Patent EP 0913957 A1 ("the '957 reference"); **(5)** rejected claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '957 reference in view of the '365 reference; and **(6)** found allowable subject matter relative to claims 1, 3, 10, 12-13, 16 and 18.

Regarding item **(1)** above, Applicant(s) respectfully submit that present claim 11 effectively traverses the stated rejection thereof, and accordingly respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of such rejection.

Concerning remaining items (2) through (6), Applicant(s) express appreciation for the finding of allowable subject matter, and further respectfully submit that the present pending claims are each directed to allowable subject matter. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the stated rejections with respect thereto are respectfully requested.

In sum, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the present claims are patentable over art of record and that such claims effectively address/traverse the issues raised via the Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections pertaining to the present Application are respectfully requested and a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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